

Heida Maria Sigurdardottir



After finishing her compulsory education, Heida Maria Sigurdardottir chose to study at the Natural Sciences Division at Hamrahlid College, in Reykjavik, Iceland. As it was mandatory to take classes in the social sciences, she signed up for a psychology class. This was a turning point in her life, for in that class she was introduced to the fascinating world of mind, brain, and behavior.

After graduating from college, Heida decided to study psychology at the University of Iceland. Three years later, she graduated with the highest grade point average ever been awarded for a

B.A. degree in Psychology at the University of Iceland. While enrolled, she assisted teaching three classes and was fortunate enough to be able to conduct research and publish articles on visual search and attention with Professor Árni Kristjánsson, now Head of the Department of Psychology. She also found time for extracurricular activities, including being on the board of the Psychology Students' Association as well as serving as its web designer and educational advisor.

After graduation, Heida began to work full time as a junior editor for the Icelandic Web of Science, where she has written and edited hundreds of articles. She also had the pleasure of teaching Psychology 103 at Hamrahlid College -- the exact same class that had had such an impact on her. In 2007, Heida was one of the founding members of the Res Extensa: Association for Mind, Brain, and Behavior, and served as Res Extensa's first president.

Over the years, Heida came to the conclusion that cognitive neuroscience was the perfect field for her; it is multidisciplinary and combines the ultimate study of cognition to its proximate mechanisms. With the help of the Fulbright Program, Heida began her Ph.D. studies in neuroscience at Brown University in 2007. There, she will focus her research on high level visual cognition, or how we make sense of a complex visual world.